

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 are amended. Claims 2 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)¹ over EP 1267318 to Koike et al. (hereinafter "Koike"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 call for the smoothing resin layer to contain only one of a near infrared rays absorbing agent and a coloring agent for color tone correction, and a third transparent adhesive layer containing only the other of the near infrared rays absorbing agent and the coloring agent for color tone correction.

Koike fails to disclose the above-mentioned features. Koike only discloses a dye contained in at least one layer selected from the group consisting of the functional transparent layer, the polymer film, the transparent adhesive layer, the transparent electrically conductive layer, the adhesive layer or the hard coat layer (see Koike's paragraph [0031]) and a near-infrared ray absorption dye is contained (see Koike's paragraph [0035]). Koike does not teach that the smoothing resin layer contains only one of a near infrared rays absorbing agent and a coloring agent for color tone correction, and the third transparent adhesive layer containing only the other of the near infrared rays absorbing agent and the coloring agent for color tone correction.

There is a plurality of coloring agents disclosed in Applicant's specification and it has been found that by incorporating the below defined coloring agents into the specified layers

¹ Applicants note that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is not proper because Koike is not a U.S. Patent or U.S. Patent Application Publication.

(i.e., the smoothing resin layer and the third transparent adhesive layer) that it is possible to obtain specific effects and to decrease the number of constituent layers. For example, the coloring agents comprise: a near infrared rays absorbing agent, which is a coloring agent that shields near infrared rays with wavelengths of 800 to 1,100 nm, emitted from a plasma display element (PDP); a coloring agent for color tone correction that corrects the color tone of the inherent emission spectrum of an inert gas characteristic of a PDP, which is unwanted light with specific wavelengths; and a coloring agent for color tone adjustment that adjusts the color tone of an image to a favorite one.

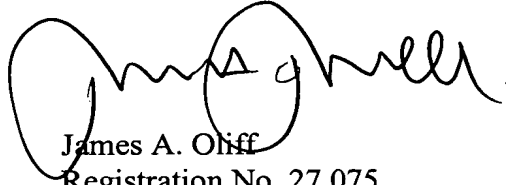
Due to the above-mentioned features of independent claims 1 and 10, it is possible to incorporate the near infrared rays absorbing agent and the coloring agent for color tone correction separately into the smoothing resin layer and the third transparent adhesive layer, respectively, so that it is easy to control only the coloring agent for color tone correction without being mixed up with the near infrared rays absorbing agent, which required the adjustment of transmittance (page 8, lines 6-11 of Applicants' specification).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Oliff', written over a printed name and registration number.

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JAO:RHR/mcp

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 18, 2008

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